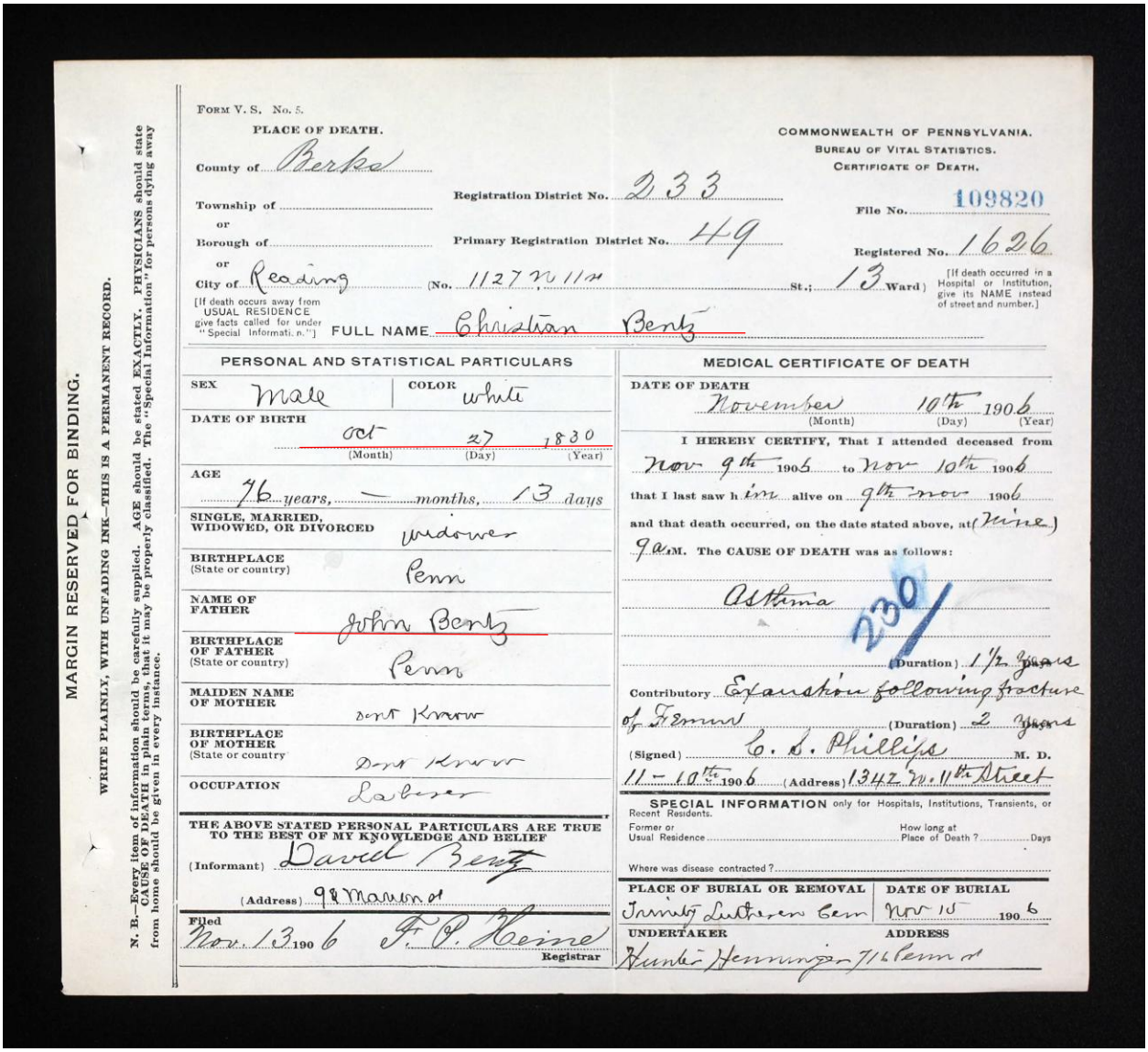
Finding Christian Benz

Christian Benz/Bentz has been a bit of an enigma, with a number of contradictory facts, and a number of unfilled spaces. Records indicate that Christian lived and raised a family in Berks County, Pennsylvania. But his origins were a bit cloudy.

Christian's death certificate lists the date of death as November 10, 1906. It also indicates the date of birth as October 27, 1830. It states that Christian was born in Pennsylvania, and was a widower. The Pennsylvania death certificate for Christian lists his father's name as John, with no name given for his mother. The information on the death certificate was provided by Christian's eldest son, David.



FORM V. S. No. 5.

PLACE OF DEATH.

County of Berks

Township of ..... or Borough of ..... or City of Reading (No. 1127 N 11th St.; 13 Ward)

[If death occurs away from USUAL RESIDENCE give facts called for under "Special Informati n."]

Registration District No. 233

Primary Registration District No. 49

[If death occurred in a Hospital or Institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.]

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS.
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH.

File No. 109820

Registered No. 1626

FULL NAME Christian Bentz

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING.

WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD.

N. B.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, that it may be properly classified. The "Special Information" for persons dying away from home should be given in every instance.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

SEX male | COLOR white

DATE OF BIRTH Oct (Month) 27 (Day) 1830 (Year)

AGE 76 years, — months, 13 days

SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED widower

BIRTHPLACE (State or country) Penn

NAME OF FATHER John Bentz

BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country) Penn

MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Don't Know

BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country) Don't Know

OCCUPATION Laborer

THE ABOVE STATED PERSONAL PARTICULARS ARE TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF

(Informant) David Bentz

(Address) 98 Marion st

Filed Nov. 13 1906 F. P. Heine Registrar

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

DATE OF DEATH November (Month) 10th (Day) 1906 (Year)

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from Nov 9th 1906 to Nov 10th 1906

that I last saw him alive on 9th Nov 1906

and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at (Time) 9 A.M. The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows:

Asthma

230

(Duration) 1½ years

Contributory Exhaustion following fracture of Femur (Duration) 2 years

(Signed) C. B. Phillips M. D.

11-10th 1906 (Address) 1342 N. 11th Street

SPECIAL INFORMATION only for Hospitals, Institutions, Transients, or Recent Residents.

Former or Usual Residence ..... How long at Place of Death? ..... Days

Where was disease contracted? .....

PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL: Trinity Lutheran Cem

DATE OF BURIAL: Nov 15 1906

UNDERTAKER: Hunter Hennigan

ADDRESS: 716 Penn st

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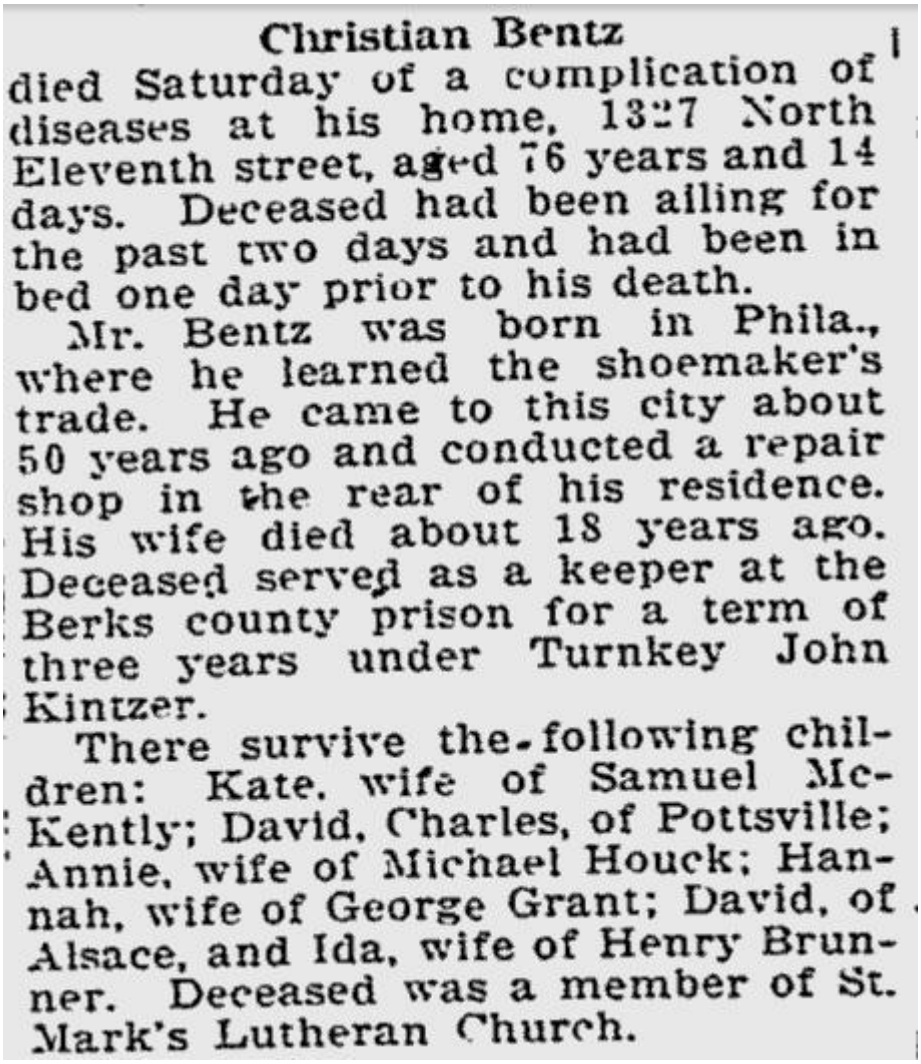
Finding Christian Benz

Christian's obituary from the Reading Eagle in 1906, list his age at 76 years, 14 days. The obituary stated that Christian was born in Philadelphia, and had been a shoemaker by trade.

The obituary also states that Christian came to Reading about 50 years prior (mid 1850's), which would be consistent with information contained in church records for births, baptisms and funerals.



Christian Bentz

died Saturday of a complication of diseases at his home, 1327 North Eleventh street, aged 76 years and 14 days. Deceased had been ailing for the past two days and had been in bed one day prior to his death.

Mr. Bentz was born in Phila., where he learned the shoemaker's trade. He came to this city about 50 years ago and conducted a repair shop in the rear of his residence. His wife died about 18 years ago. Deceased served as a keeper at the Berks county prison for a term of three years under Turnkey John Kintzer.

There survive the following children: Kate, wife of Samuel McKently; David, Charles, of Pottsville; Annie, wife of Michael Houck; Hannah, wife of George Grant; David, of Alsace, and Ida, wife of Henry Brunner. Deceased was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

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Finding Christian Benz

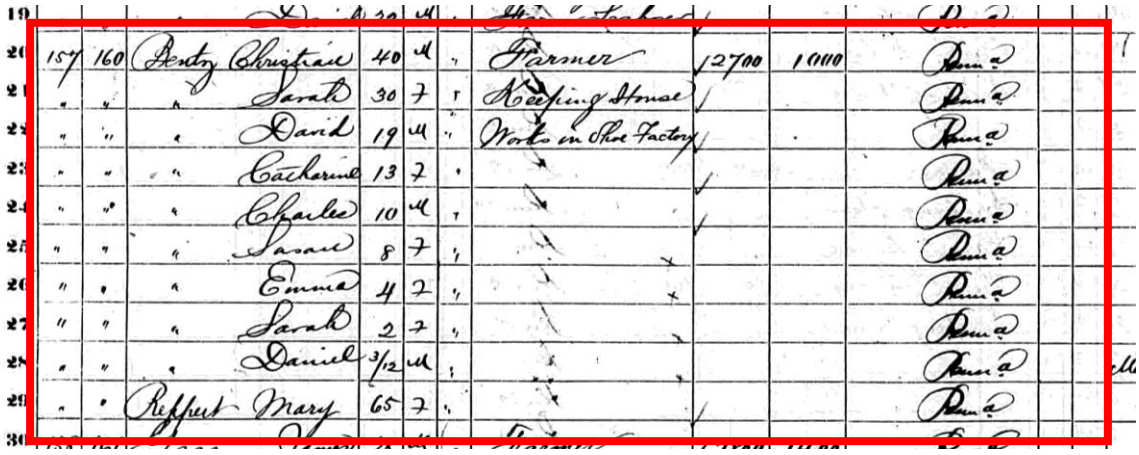
1870 and 1880

Two of the records which were identified early in the search for Christian were 1870 and 1880 United States census records.

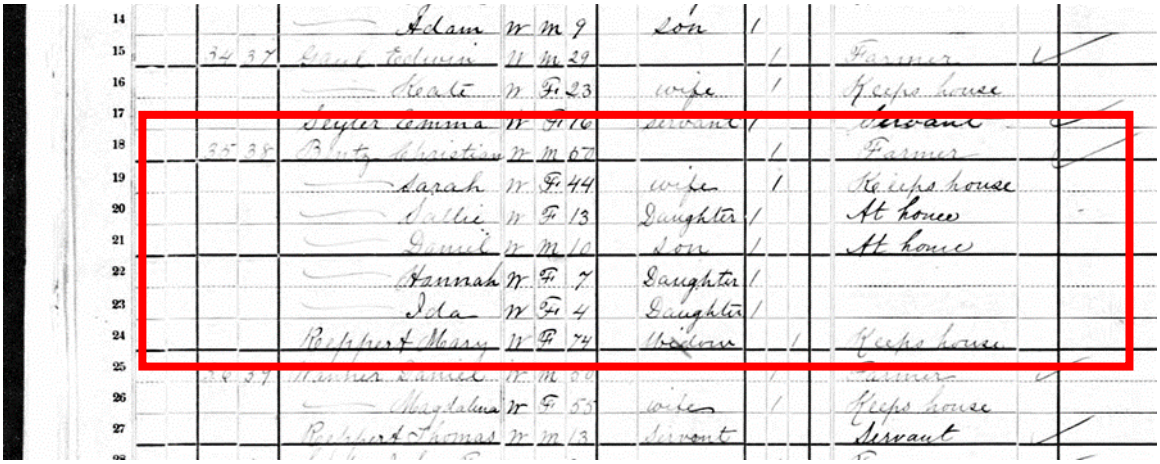
In the 1870 Census of Berks County (Berks County, Alsace Township, July 9, 1870), Christian was listed as being 40 years of age. He was listed as being 50 years of age in the 1880 census (Berks County, Alsace Township, June 3, 1880). This would indicate the birth year of 1830. Both the 1870 and 1880 Census forms indicate Christian was born in Pennsylvania, and the 1880 census states that his parents were also born in Pennsylvania.

These census documents established Christian's presence in Berks County by at least 1870. No person named Christian Bentz, matching the age parameter)age 10), was identified in the 1840 census in any area of Pennsylvania. Nor were initial searches for Christian Bentz in the either the 1850 or 1860 census successful.

1870 Census, Berks County, Alsace Township, July 9, 1870



1880 Census, Berks County, Alsace Township, June 3rd 1880



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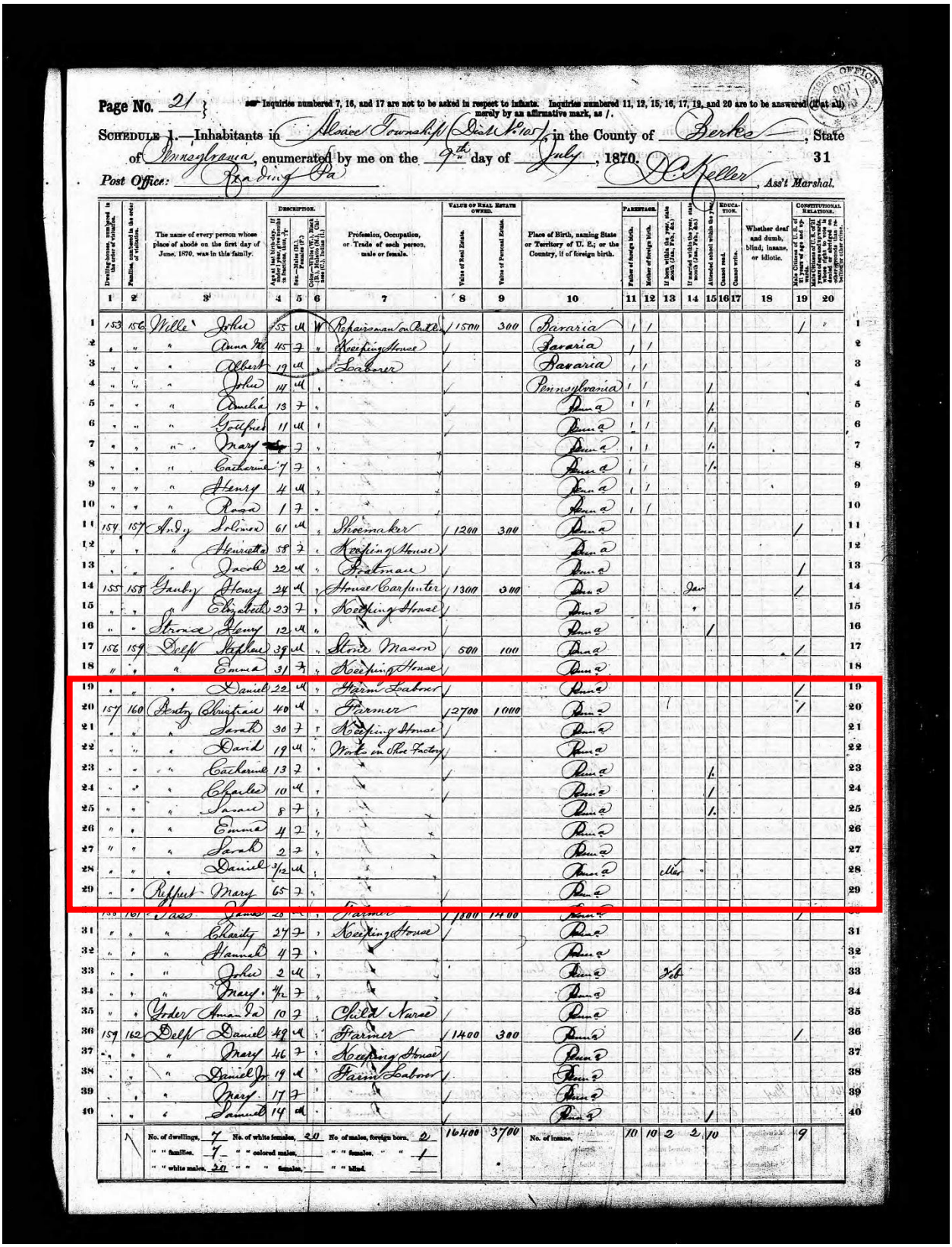

Page No. 21

Inquiries numbered 7, 16, and 17 are not to be asked in respect to infants. Inquiries numbered 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 19, and 20 are to be answered (if at all) merely by an affirmative mark, as /.

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in Alsace Township (Dist. No. 105), in the County of Berks, State of Pennsylvania, enumerated by me on the 9th day of July, 1870. D. Keller, Ass't Marshal.

Post Office: Reading Pa

	Dwelling-houses, numbered in the order of visitation.	Families, numbered in the order of visitation.	The name of every person whose place of abode on the first day of June, 1870, was in this family.	Description: Age at last birthday. If under 1 year, state months in fraction, thus, 6/12.	Sex.	Color.	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male or female.	Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.	Place of Birth, naming State or Territory of U. S.; or the Country, if of foreign birth.	Parentage: Father of foreign birth.	Mother of foreign birth.	If born within the year, state month.	If married within the year, state month.	Education: Attended school within the year.	Cannot read.	Cannot write.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	Constitutional Relations: Male Citizens of U. S. of 21 years and upward.	Male Citizens of U. S. of 21 years and upward, whose right to vote is denied or abridged on other grounds than rebellion or crime.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	153	156	Wille John	55	M	W	Repairman on Rail Road	1500	300	Bavaria	/	/							/	
2	"	"	" Anna M	45	F	"	Keeping House	/		Bavaria	/	/								
3	"	"	" Albert	19	M	"	Laborer	/		Bavaria	/	/								
4	"	"	" John	11	M	"		/		Pennsylvania	/	/			/					
5	"	"	" Amelia	13	F	"		/		Penna	/	/			/					
6	"	"	" Godfred	11	M	"		/		Penna	/	/			/					
7	"	"	" Mary	7	F	"		/		Penna	/	/			/					
8	"	"	" Catharine	7	F	"		/		Penna	/	/			/					
9	"	"	" Henry	4	M	"		/		Penna	/	/								
10	"	"	" Rosa	1	F	"		/		Penna	/	/								
11	154	157	Andy Solomon	61	M	"	Shoemaker	1200	300	Penna									/	
12	"	"	" Henrietta	58	F	"	Keeping House	/		Penna										
13	"	"	" Jacob	22	M	"	Postman	/		Penna									/	
14	155	158	Gauby Henry	24	M	"	House Carpenter	1300	300	Penna				Jan					/	
15	"	"	" Elizabeth	23	F	"	Keeping House	/		Penna										
16	"	"	Stroup Henry	12	M	"		/		Penna					/					
17	156	159	Delp Stephen	39	M	"	Stone Mason	500	100	Penna									/	
18	"	"	" Emma	31	F	"	Keeping House	/		Penna										
19	"	"	" Daniel	22	M	"	Farm Laborer	/		Penna									/	
20	157	160	Bentz Christian	40	M	"	Farmer	2700	1000	Penna									/	
21	"	"	" Sarah	30	F	"	Keeping House	/		Penna										
22	"	"	" David	19	M	"	Work on Rail Road	/		Penna										
23	"	"	" Catherine	13	F	"		/		Penna					/					
24	"	"	" Charles	10	M	"		/		Penna					/					
25	"	"	" Isaac	8	F	"		/		Penna					/					
26	"	"	" Emma	4	F	"		/		Penna										
27	"	"	" Sarah	2	F	"		/		Penna										
28	"	"	" Daniel	3/12	M	"		/		Penna			Mar							
29	"	"	Reffert Mary	65	F	"		/		Penna										
30	158	161	Yarr James	28	M	"	Farmer	1800	1400	Penna									/	
31	"	"	" Charity	27	F	"	Keeping House	/		Penna										
32	"	"	" Hannah	4	F	"		/		Penna										
33	"	"	" John	2	M	"		/		Penna			Feb							
34	"	"	" Mary	4/12	F	"		/		Penna										
35	"	"	Yoder Amanda	10	F	"	Child Nurse	/		Penna										
36	159	162	Delp Daniel	49	M	"	Farmer	1400	300	Penna									/	
37	"	"	" Mary	46	F	"	Keeping House	/		Penna										
38	"	"	" Daniel Jr	19	M	"	Farm Laborer	/		Penna										
39	"	"	" Mary	17	F	"		/		Penna										
40	"	"	" Samuel	14	M	"		/		Penna					/					
			No. of dwellings, 7 No. of white females, 20 No. of males, foreign born, 2					16400	3700	No. of Idiots.	10	10	2	2	10				9	
			" " families. 7 " " colored males, — " " females, " " 1																	
			" " white males, 20 " " " females, — " " blind, —																	

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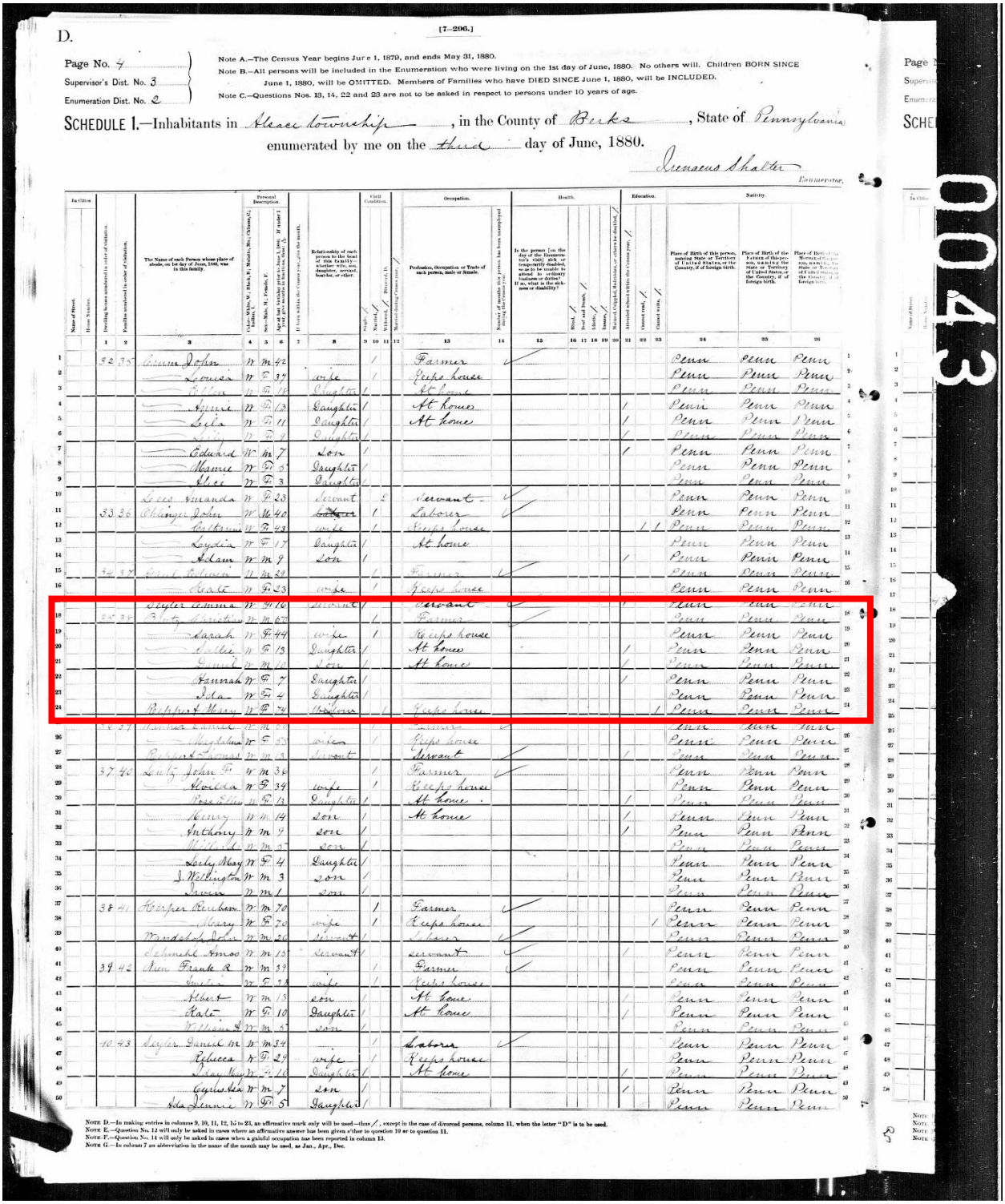
Finding Christian Benz



D.

[7–296.]

Page No. 4
Supervisor's Dist. No. 3
Enumeration Dist. No. 2

Note A.—The Census Year begins June 1, 1879, and ends May 31, 1880.
Note B.—All persons will be included in the Enumeration who were living on the 1st day of June, 1880. No others will. Children BORN SINCE June 1, 1880, will be OMITTED. Members of Families who have DIED SINCE June 1, 1880, will be INCLUDED.
Note C.—Questions Nos. 13, 14, 22 and 23 are not to be asked in respect to persons under 10 years of age.

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in Alsace township, in the County of Berks, State of Pennsylvania enumerated by me on the third day of June, 1880.

Jeremias Shalter
Enumerator.

	In Cities			The Name of each Person whose place of abode, on 1st day of June, 1880, was in this family.	Personal Description			Relationship of each person to the head of this family—whether wife, son, daughter, servant, boarder, or other.	Civil Condition			Occupation	Health						Education			Nativity		
	Name of Street.	House Number.	Dwelling Houses numbered in order of visitation.	Families numbered in order of visitation.		Color White, W; Black, B; Mulatto, Mu; Chinese, C; Indian, I	Sex—Male, M; Female, F.	Age at last Birthday prior to June 1, 1880. If under 1 year, give the month.	If born within the Census year, give the month.	Single.	Married.	Widowed.	Divorced.	Profession, Occupation or Trade of each person, male or female.	Number of months this person has been unemployed during the Census year.	Is the person [on the day of the Enumeration] sick or temporarily disabled, so as to be unable to attend to ordinary business or duties? If so, what is the sickness or disability?	Blind.	Deaf and Dumb.	Idiotic.	Insane.	Maimed, Crippled, Bedridden, or otherwise Disabled.	Attended school within the Census year.	Cannot read.	Cannot write.	Place of Birth of this person, naming State or Territory of United States, or the Country, if of foreign birth.	Place of Birth of the Father of this person, naming the State or Territory of United States, or the Country, if of foreign birth.	Place of Birth of the Mother of this person, naming the State or Territory of United States, or the Country, if of foreign birth.
	1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
1			32	35	Krum John	W	M	42			1			Farmer											Penn	Penn	Penn
2					Louisa	W	F	37	wife		1			Keeps house											Penn	Penn	Penn
3					Ellen	W	F	16	Daughter					At home											Penn	Penn	Penn
4					Annie	W	F	13	Daughter					At home											Penn	Penn	Penn
5					Lela	W	F	11	Daughter					At home											Penn	Penn	Penn
6					Lilly	W	F	9	Daughter																Penn	Penn	Penn
7					Edward	W	M	7	Son																Penn	Penn	Penn
8					Minnie	W	F	5	Daughter																Penn	Penn	Penn
9					Alice	W	F	3	Daughter																Penn	Penn	Penn
10					Lees Amanda	W	F	23	Servant		S			Servant											Penn	Penn	Penn
11			33	36	Rhinger John	W	M	40	~~Father~~		1			Laborer											Penn	Penn	Penn
12					Catharine	W	F	43	wife			1		Keeps house									1	1	Penn	Penn	Penn
13					Lydia	W	F	17	Daughter					At home											Penn	Penn	Penn
14					Adam	W	M	9	Son														1		Penn	Penn	Penn
15			32	37	Rank Solomon	W	M	29				1		Farmer											Penn	Penn	Penn
16					Kate	W	F	23	wife		1			Keeps house											Penn	Penn	Penn
17					Seyler Emma	W	F	16	Servant		S			Servant									1		Penn	Penn	Penn
18			35	38	Bitz Hamilton	W	M	67				1		Farmer											Penn	Penn	Penn
19					Sarah	W	F	44	wife		1			Keeps house											Penn	Penn	Penn
20					Nellie	W	F	13	Daughter					At home									1		Penn	Penn	Penn
21					Daniel	W	M	10	Son					At home									1		Penn	Penn	Penn
22					Hannah	W	F	7	Daughter														1		Penn	Penn	Penn
23					Ida	W	F	4	Daughter																Penn	Penn	Penn
24					Reichert Mary	W	F	74	Mother			1		Keeps house										1	Penn	Penn	Penn
25			34	37	Hartman Samuel	W	M	68				1		Farmer											Penn	Penn	Penn
26					Magdalena	W	F	55	wife		1			Keeps house											Penn	Penn	Penn
27					Reichert Thomas	W	M	13	Servant					Servant									1		Penn	Penn	Penn
28			37	40	Lutz John P	W	M	36			1			Farmer											Penn	Penn	Penn
29					Amelia	W	F	34	wife		1			Keeps house											Penn	Penn	Penn
30					Rose Ellen	W	F	12	Daughter					At home									1		Penn	Penn	Penn
31					Henry	W	M	14	Son					At home									1		Penn	Penn	Penn
32					Anthony	W	M	9	Son														1		Penn	Penn	Penn
33					Willie	W	M	7	Son																Penn	Penn	Penn
34					Lucy Mary	W	F	4	Daughter																Penn	Penn	Penn
35					J. Wellington	W	M	3	Son																Penn	Penn	Penn
36					Jennie	W	M	1	Son																Penn	Penn	Penn
37			38	41	Hoerner Reuben	W	M	70				1		Farmer											Penn	Penn	Penn
38					Mary	W	F	70	wife		1			Keeps house										1	Penn	Penn	Penn
39					Mendsloh John	W	M	26	Servant		S			Laborer											Penn	Penn	Penn
40					Schmehl Amos	W	M	15	Servant		S			Servant									1		Penn	Penn	Penn
41			39	42	Rein Frank R	W	M	33				1		Farmer											Penn	Penn	Penn
42					Sallie	W	F	28	wife			1		Keeps house											Penn	Penn	Penn
43					Albert	W	M	13	Son					At home									1		Penn	Penn	Penn
44					Kate	W	F	10	Daughter					At home									1		Penn	Penn	Penn
45					William H	W	M	6	Son																Penn	Penn	Penn
46			40	43	Sayer Daniel	W	M	34				1		Laborer											Penn	Penn	Penn
47					Rebecca	W	F	29	wife		1			Keeps house											Penn	Penn	Penn
48					Mary May	W	F	10	Daughter					At home									1		Penn	Penn	Penn
49					Cyrus Lee	W	M	7	Son														1		Penn	Penn	Penn
50					Ida Jennie	W	F	5	Daughter																Penn	Penn	Penn

Note D.—In making entries in columns 9, 10, 11, 12, 15 to 23, an affirmative mark only will be used—thus /, except in the case of divorced persons, column 11, when the letter "D" is to be used.
Note E.—Question No. 12 will only be asked in cases where an affirmative answer has been given either to question 10 or to question 11.
Note F.—Question No. 14 will only be asked in cases when a gainful occupation has been reported in column 13.
Note G.—In column 7 an abbreviation in the name of the month may be used, as Jan., Apr., Dec.

0043

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Finding Christian Benz

The 1870 Census identified Christian (40), his wife Sarah (30), and children David (19), Catherine (13), Charles (10), Susan (8), Emma (4), Sarah (2), and Daniel (3/12). Included in the household was Mary Reppert (65). Christian is listed as a farmer, and David is listed as 'works in shoe factory'.

Based on the age of David (19 years) in 1870, and Sarah's age (30 years) it appeared that Sarah was not the birth mother to David, specifically, and potentially of other of the Bentz family children, as well. The 1880 census included two additional children, Hannah (7) and Ida (4).

The family connection of Mary Reppert is not identified in the 1870 census. In the 1880 census she is listed as 'widowed', and it was surmised that she was likely Sarah's mother. Additional research proved that to be correct.

Based on the data included in both the 1870 and 1880 census, the initial focus on finding Christian was predicated on the idea that he, and potentially his parents, were born in Pennsylvania.

This directed the focus towards the Bentz family in Lancaster County. The Bentz family in Lancaster County had emigrated from the Palatine region along the Rhine River to Pennsylvania in the 1730's and 1740's. One of the original settlers was in fact named Christian Bentz, who also had a son named Christian.

Lancaster County records indicate that a Christian Bentz, the son of Johann (Johann Christian) and Sarah Zartman, was born and lived in Epharta Township in Lancaster County. Initially he appeared a likely candidate, however, further document review indicated that particular Christian was born around 1844, and died before 1860.

While there were other people named Christian Bentz in Pennsylvania identified during the research, none of them were in the correct age range that had been indicated in the initial census records.

Further review of documents was performed, with an eye towards more phonetic spellings of Bentz as a surname. These revised searches bore out additional information.

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Finding Christian Benz

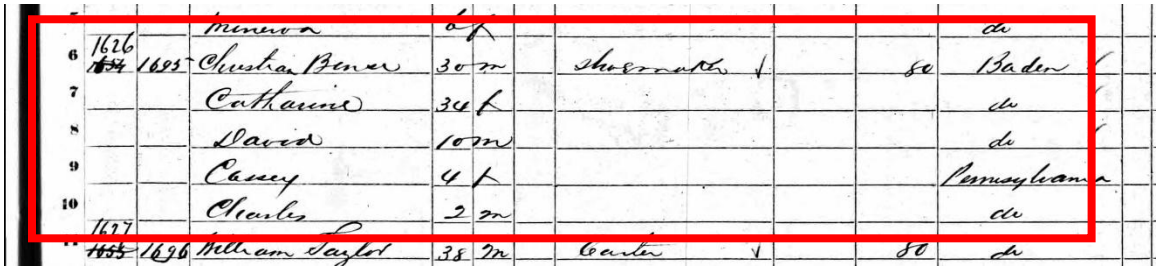
1860's

A record hit in the 1860 Census, Reading, Berks County, included a likely identification for Christian. The family was in Berks County, North-East Ward, page 956, has an entry for (July 10, 1860).

Christian Bence, 30 years of age; occupation shoemaker; wife Catherine 36 years; son David, 10 years; daughter Cassy (Catherine Caroline) 4 years; son Charles (Charles Henry) 2 months. Christian's place of birth is listed as "Baden" (Baden-Wurttemberg).

Christian's spouse in 1860 is not Sarah, but Catherine, who, according to the census records, was born around 1824.

Christians trade in 1860 census is shoemaker. This was the same trade noted in his obituary. David, the eldest son, also identified in the obituary, as was his son Charles.



1860 Census, Berks County, Northeast West Reading, July 10, 1860

In the 1870 census, David had been identified as 'works in shoe factory'. David would later be identified as a shoemaker in city directories for Reading.

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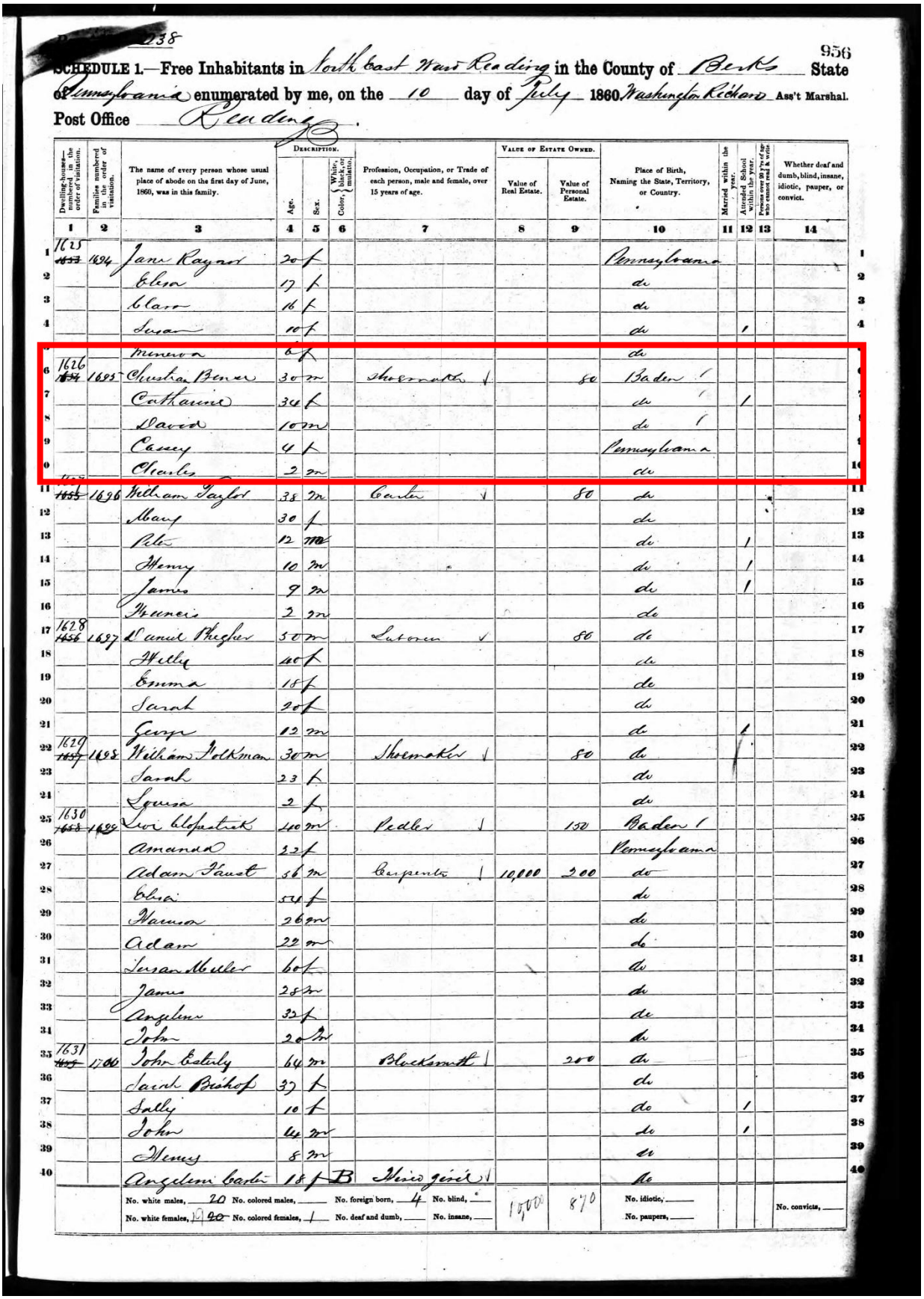

938

956

SCHEDULE 1.—Free Inhabitants in South East Ward Reading in the County of Berks State of Pennsylvania enumerated by me, on the 10 day of July 1860. Washington Richard Ass't Marshal.

Post Office Reading.

Dwelling-houses—numbered in the order of visitation.	Families numbered in the order of visitation.	The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1860, was in this family.	Description: Age.	Sex.	Color, (white, black, or mulatto).	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.	Value of Estate Owned: Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.	Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Attended School within the year.	Persons over 20 yrs of age who cannot read & write.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1625	1694	Jane Rayner	20	f					Pennsylvania				
		Eliza	17	f					do				
		Clara	16	f					do				
		Susan	10	f					do		1		
		Minerva	6	f					do				
1626	1695	Christian Benez	30	m		Shoemaker		80	Baden				
		Catharine	30	f					do		1		
		David	10	m					do				
		Casey	4	f					Pennsylvania				
		Charles	2	m					do				
1627	1696	William Taylor	38	m		Carter		80	do				
		Mary	30	f					do				
		Peter	12	m					do		1		
		Henry	10	m					do		1		
		James	9	m					do		1		
		Heuneis	2	m					do				
1628	1697	Daniel Ziegler	30	m		Tanner		80	do				
		Wilhelmina	40	f					do				
		Emma	18	f					do				
		Sarah	20	f					do				
		George	12	m					do		1		
1629	1698	William Folkman	30	m		Shoemaker		80	do				
		Sarah	23	f					do				
		Louisa	2	f					do				
1630	1699	Levi Klopstock	40	m		Peddler		150	Baden				
		Amanda	32	f					Pennsylvania				
		Adam Faust	56	m		Carpenter	10,000	200	do				
		Eliza	52	f					do				
		Hanna	26	m					do				
		Adam	22	m					do				
		Susan Mueller	60	f					do				
		James	28	m					do				
		Angelina	32	f					do				
		John	20	m					do				
1631	1700	John Esterly	64	m		Blacksmith		200	do				
		Sarah Bishop	37	f					do				
		Sally	10	f					do		1		
		John	4	m					do		1		
		Henry	8	m					do				
		Angelina Barbara	18	f	B	Weissgerber			do				
		No. white males, 20 No. colored males, ___ No. foreign born, 4 No. blind, ___					10000	870	No. idiotic, ___				No. convicts, ___
		No. white females, 20 No. colored females, 1 No. deaf and dumb, ___ No. insane, ___							No. paupers, ___				

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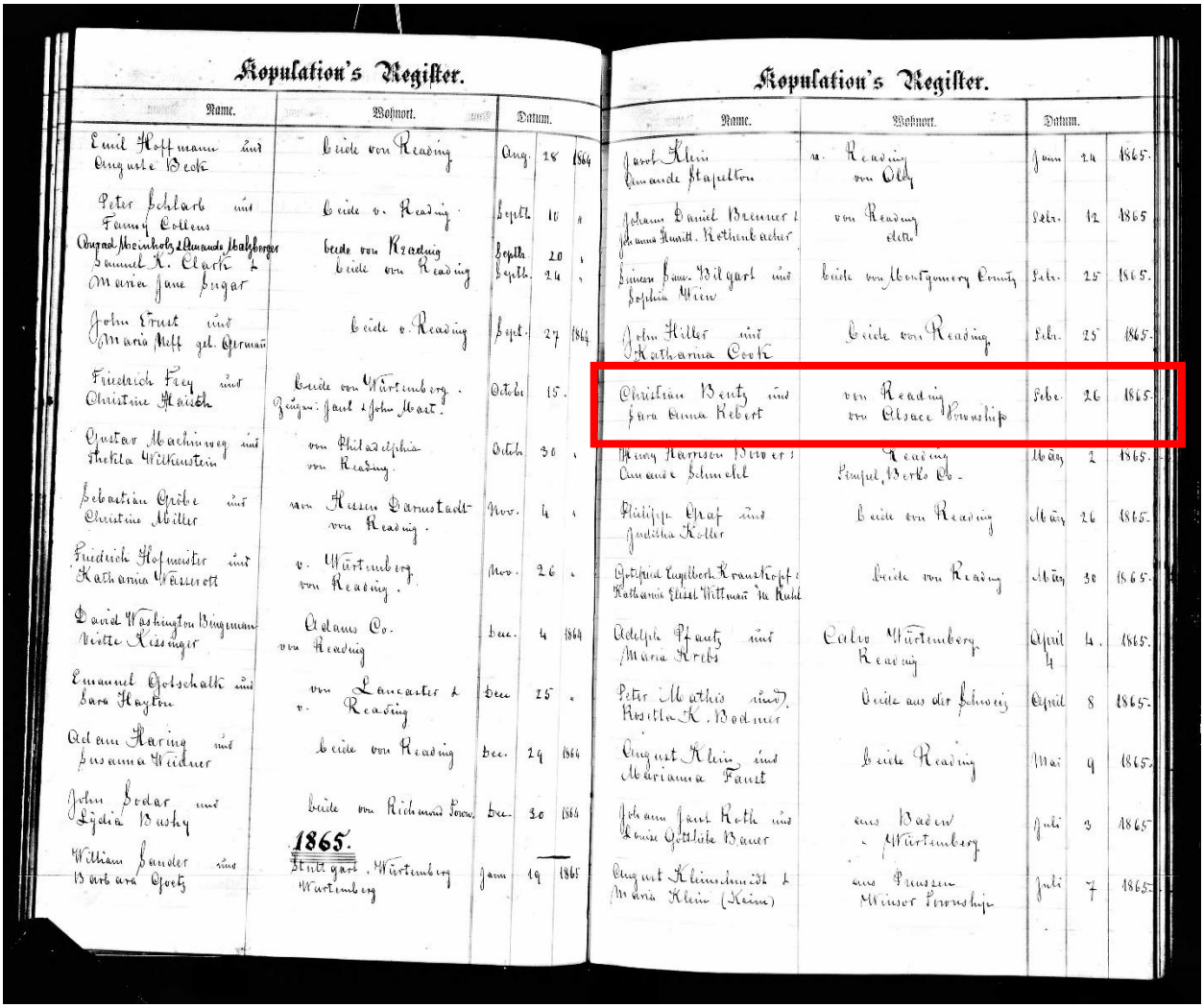
Finding Christian Benz

A search of church records for St. John's Lutheran Church in Berks County, identified the marriage of Christian Bentz and Sarah Ann Reppert, in Alsace Township on February 26, 1865. The date of the marriage indicates that Sarah was not the mother of David, but also Catherine, Charles and Susan, as they were all born prior to 1865.

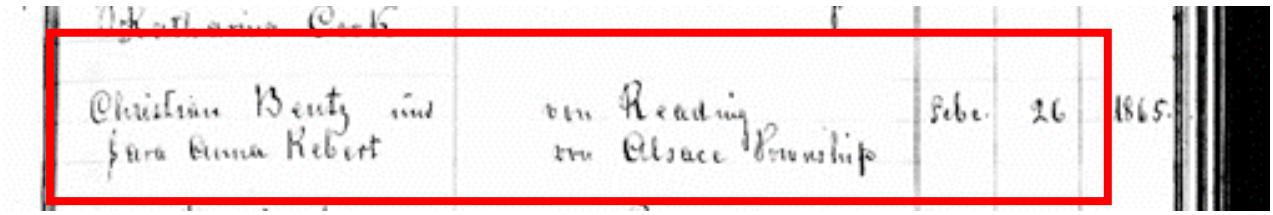


Kopulation's Register.

Name.	Wohnort.	Datum.
Emil Hoffmann und Auguste Beck	beide von Reading	Aug. 28 1864
Peter Schlarb und Fanny Collens	beide v. Reading	Sept. 10 "
Conrad Meinhold & Amanda Mahlberger	beide von Reading	Sept. 20 "
Samuel K. Clark & Maria Jane Yeager	beide von Reading	Sept. 24 "
John Trost und Maria Mest gb. Germann	beide v. Reading	Sept. 27 1864
Friedrich Frey und Christine Hausch	beide von Würtemberg. Zeugen: Jacob & John Mast	Octobr. 15.
Gustav Machinweg und Thekla Wilkenstein	von Philadelphia von Reading	Octob. 30 "
Sebastian Gribe und Christine Miller	von Hessen Darmstadt von Reading.	Nov. 4 "
Friedrich Hofmeister und Katharina Fassnacht	v. Würtemburg von Reading.	Nov. 26 "
David Washington Bingemann Lettie Kissinger	Adams Co. von Reading	Dec. 4 1864
Emanuel Gotschalk und Sara Hayton	von Lancaster & v. Reading	Dec 25 "
Adam Haring und Susanna Weidner	beide von Reading	Dec. 29 1864
John Sodar und Lydia Bushy	beide von Richmond Town	Dec. 30 1864
William Sander und Barbara Goetz	1865. Stuttgart, Würtemberg Würtemburg	Jan. 19 1865

Kopulation's Register.

Name.	Wohnort.	Datum.
Jacob Klein Amanda Stapelton	v. Reading von Ohio	Jan. 24 1865.
Johann Daniel Brenner & Johanna Hamitt. Rothenbacher	von Reading dito	Febr. 12 1865
Simon Sam. Wilgart und Sophia Klein	beide von Montgomery County	Febr. 25 1865.
John Hiller und Katharina Cook	beide von Reading	Febr. 25 1865.
Christian Bentz und Sara Anna Rebert	von Reading von Alsace Township	Febr. 26 1865.
Wm Harrison Brower & Amanda Schmehl	Reading Pinsul, Berks Co.	März 2 1865.
Philipp Graf und Sabina Keller	beide von Reading	März 26 1865.
Gottfried Engelbert Krautkopf & Katharina Elisab. Hillmann in Ruhl	beide von Reading	März 30 1865.
Adolph Pfautz und Maria Krebs	Calw Würtemberg Reading	April 4. 1865.
Peter Mathis und Rosetta K. Bodmer	beide aus der Schweiz	April 8 1865.
August Klein und Mariana Faust	beide Reading	Mai 4 1865.
Johann Jacob Roth und Louise Gottlieb Bauer	aus Baden - Würtemburg	Juli 3 1865
August Kleinschmidt & Maria Klein (Klein)	aus Prussen Alsace Township	Juli 7 1865.



Christian Bentz und Sara Anna Rebert — von Reading von Alsace Township — Febr. 26 1865.

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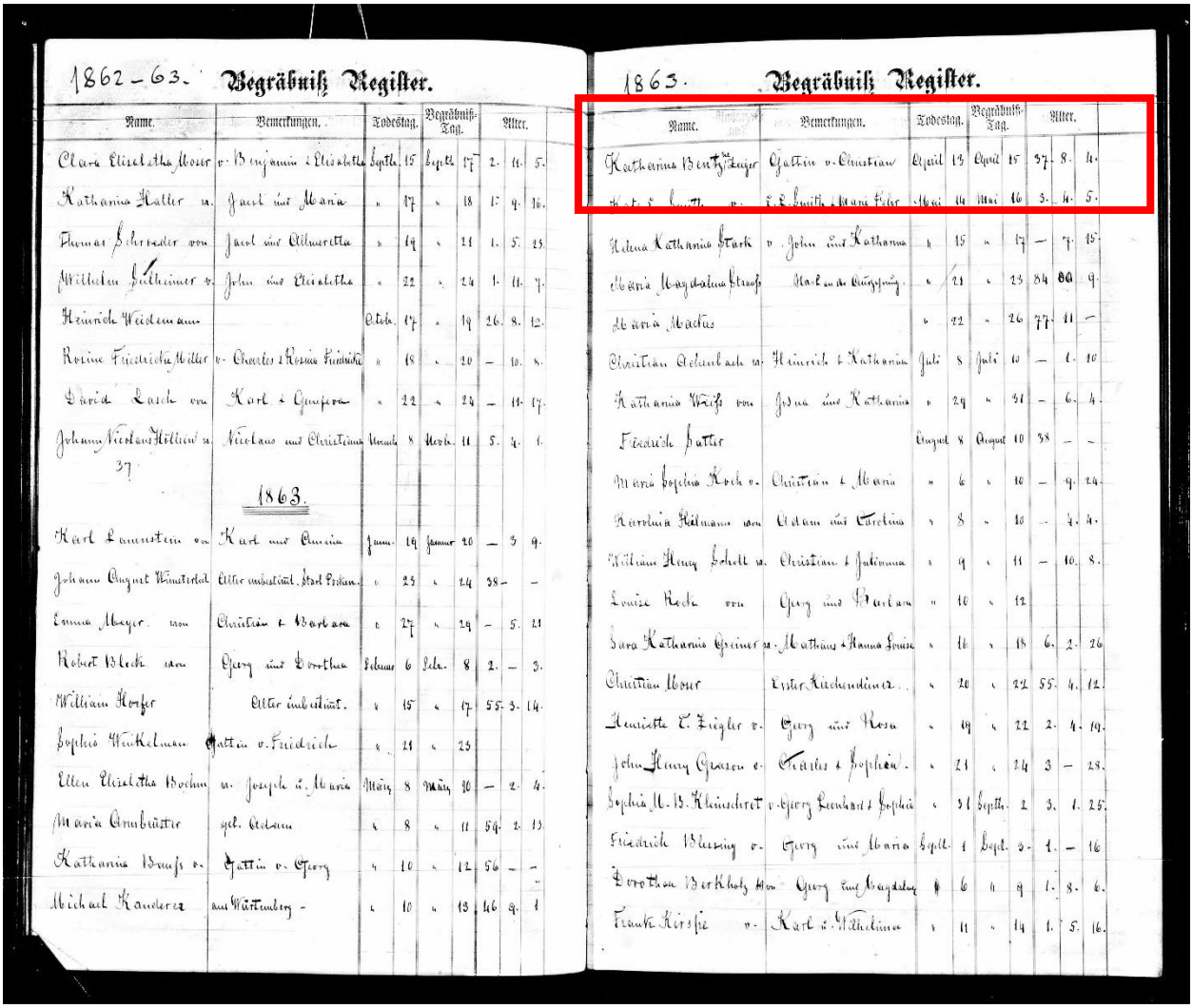
Finding Christian Benz

Additional searches of the church records of St John's Lutheran Church provided a burial record for Katharina Bentz, nee Zeiger, on April 15, 1863. Katharina's birth year is recorded as 1826. In the remarks it indicates the next of kin is identified as 'Christian'.



1862–63. Begräbniß Register.

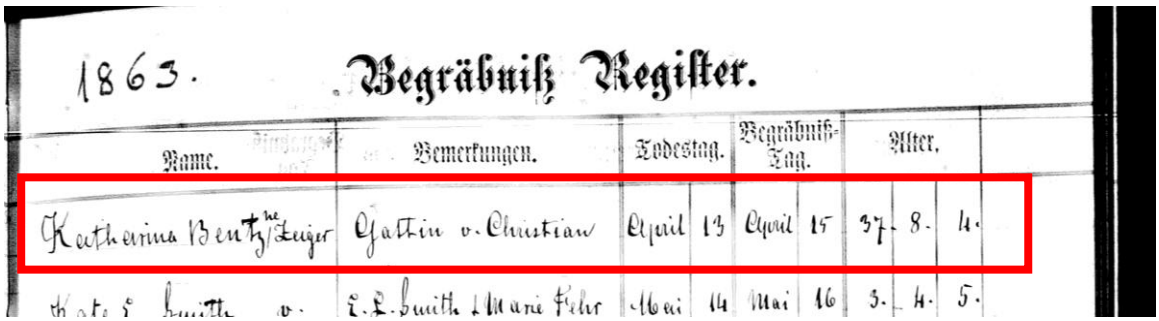
Name.	Bemerkungen.	Todestag.	Begräbniß-Tag.	Alter.
Clara Elisabetha Moser	v. Benjamin & Elisabetha	Septb. 15	Septb. 17	2. 11. 5.
Katharina Haller w.	Jacob sen. Maria	" 17	" 18	1. 9. 16.
Thomas Schroeder von	Jacob sen. Wilhelmina	" 19	" 21	1. 5. 13.
Wilhelm Hellheimer v.	John sen. Elisabetha	" 22	" 24	1. 11. 7.
Heinrich Weidemann		Octob. 17	" 19	26. 8. 12.
Rosine Friederike Miller	v. Charles & Rosina Friederike	" 18	" 20	— 10. 8.
David Lasch von	Karl & Josefine	" 22	" 24	— 11. 17.
Johann Nicolaus Hellheim w. 37	Nicolaus sen. Christiana	Novemb. 8	Novb. 11	5. 4. 1.

1863.

Karl Lauenstein von	Karl sen. Maria	Janu. 14	Januar 20	— 5 9.
Johann August Winterstein	Aelter unbestraft. Stadt Pforzheim	" 23	" 24	58 — —
Emma Meyer von	Christian & Barbara	" 27	" 29	— 5. 21
Robert Bleck von	Georg sen. Dorothea	Februar 6	Febr. 8	2. — 3.
William Hoefer	Aelter unbestraft.	" 15	" 17	55. 3. 14.
Sophia Winkelmann	Gattin v. Friedrich	" 21	" 25	
Ellen Elisabetha Bohm	w. Joseph sen. Maria	März 8	März 10	— 2. 4.
Maria Amalia Stir	gel. Adelmann	" 8	" 11	54. 2. 13.
Katharina Bruss v.	Gattin v. Georg	" 10	" 12	56 — —
Michael Kanderer	aus Württemberg -	" 10	" 13	46. 9. 1

1863. Begräbniß Register.

Name.	Bemerkungen.	Todestag.	Begräbniß-Tag.	Alter.
Katharina Bentz ne Zeiger	Gattin v. Christian	April 13	April 15	37. 8. 14.
Kate E. Smith	v. E. E. Smith & Maria Fehr	Mai 14	Mai 16	3. 4. 5.
Helena Katharina Frank	v. John sen. Katharina	" 15	" 17	— 7. 15.
Maria Magdalena Strauß	Mark in der Burgung	" 21	" 23	84 80 9.
Maria Mathes		" 22	" 26	77. 11 —
Christian Oelenbach sen.	Heinrich & Katharina	Juli 8	Juli 10	— 1. 10
Katharina Weiß von	Josua sen. Katharina	" 29	" 31	— 6. 4.
Friedrich Fetter		August 8	August 10	38 — —
Maria Sophia Koch v.	Christian & Maria	" 6	" 10	— 9. 24.
Karolina Hilmann von	Adam sen. Caroline	" 8	" 10	— 4. 4.
William Henry Schott v.	Christian & Julianna	" 9	" 11	— 10. 8.
Louise Koch von	Georg sen. Barbara	" 10	" 12	
Sara Katharina Griner w.	Matthias & Anna Louise	" 16	" 18	6. 2. 26
Christian Moser	Erster Kirchendiener	" 20	" 22	55. 4. 12.
Henriette C. Ziegler v.	Georg sen. Rosa	" 19	" 22	2. 4. 19.
John Henry Gracen v.	Charles & Sophia	" 21	" 24	3 — 28.
Sophia M. B. Kleinschrot	v. Georg Leonhard & Sophia	" 31	Septb. 2	3. 1. 25.
Friedrich Blessing v.	Georg sen. Maria	Septb. 1	Sept. 3.	1. — 16
Dorothea Berkholz Wm.	Georg sen. Magdalena	" 6	" 9	1. 8. 6.
Franke Kirsch v.	Karl & Wilhelmine	" 11	" 14	1. 5. 16.



1863. Begräbniß Register.

Name.	Bemerkungen.	Todestag.	Begräbniß-Tag.	Alter.
Katharina Bentz ne Zeiger	Gattin v. Christian	April 13	April 15	37. 8. 14.
Kate E. Smith	v. E. E. Smith & Maria Fehr	Mai 14	Mai 16	3. 4. 5.

St John's Lutheran Church burial record for Katharina Bentz, nee Zeiger, on April 15, 1863

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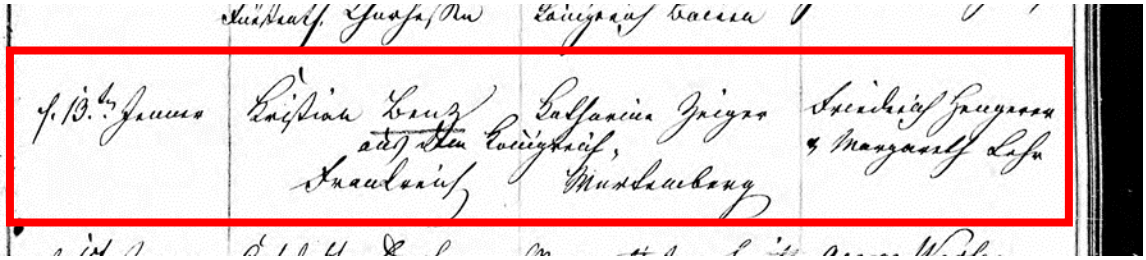
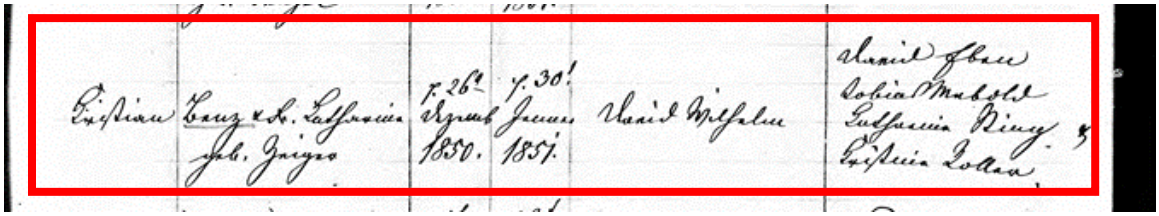
Finding Christian Benz

1850's

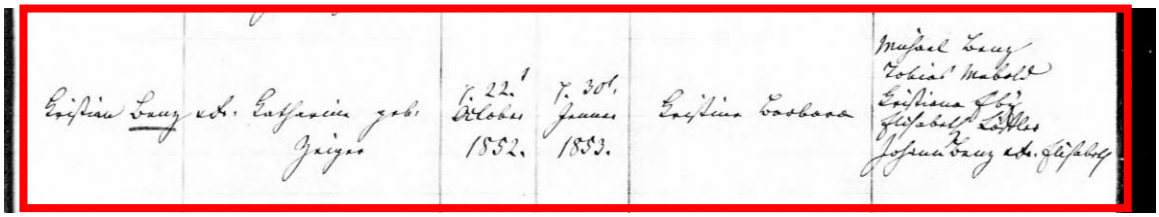
With an additional name to aid in the research, a marriage record for Christian Benz and Catherina Zeiger was identified at Saint Michaels's and Zion Lutheran Church, in Philadelphia. The marriage was January 13, 1850. This placed Christian and Catherine in Philadelphia during the time frame of the 1850 Census. Christian's obituary identified him as having moved to Berks County from Philadelphia.



St Michael's church records also provided a record for the baptism of David Wilhelm Benz, on January 30, 1851. David's birthdate is recorded as December 26, 1850.



St Michaels church records also provided a baptism record for Christine Barbara Benz on January 30, 1853, with a birth date of October 22, 1853.



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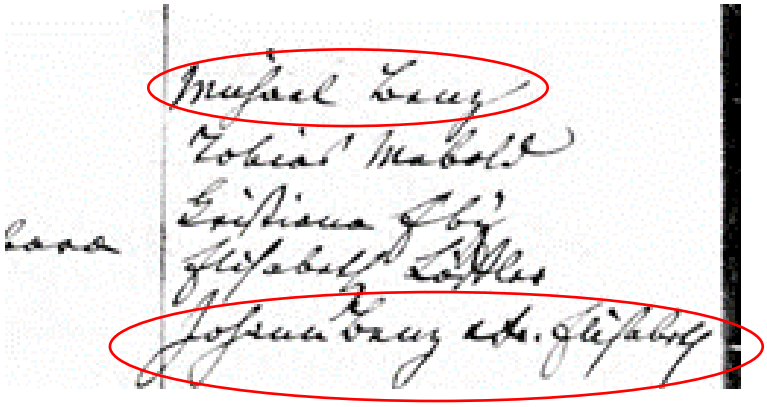
Finding Christian Benz

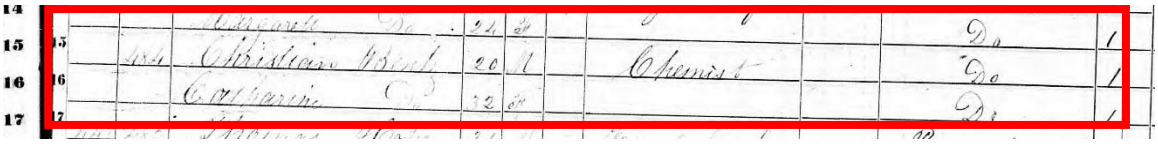


Notably, included in the witnesses for Christine Barbara baptism are Michael Benz, and Johann and Elizabeth Benz.

The baptism records for Christian and Catherine's other children: John Henry/Heinrich (born 7 October 1854); Catherine Caroline (1856); Charles Henry (1859) and Anna M (Suzanna) (1861) were found in the Trinity Lutheran Church records, in Berks County. These church records also include the burial records for Christina Barbara (23 June 1858) and John Henry (29 June 1858).

This was a clear indication that the family had relocated from Philadelphia to Berks County between October 1853 and October 1854.

1850 Census (August 1850) records found Christian Benz (b1830) and Catherine (b1818) In Philadelphia Spring Garden Ward 3 Precinct 2. Christian's occupation listed as Chemist, and place of birth listed as Germany, not Pennsylvania. The birth year for Catherine does not match the date of birth noted in her funeral notice (1826). The family name in the census is recorded as 'Bentz'.



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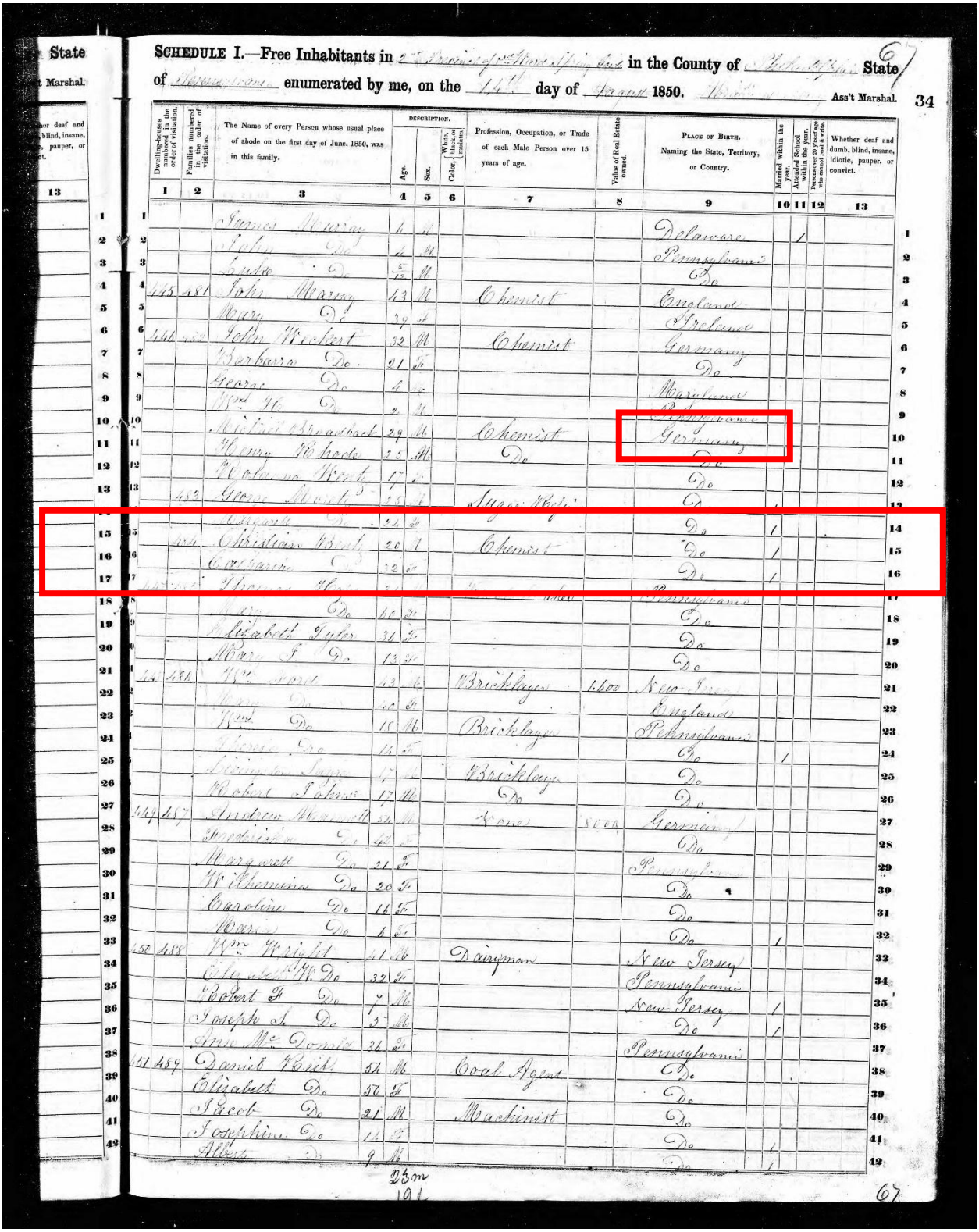

State

Marshal.

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in [illegible] in the County of [illegible] State

of [illegible] enumerated by me, on the 14th day of August 1850. [illegible] Ass't Marshal. 34

Dwelling-houses numbered in the order of visitation.	Families numbered in the order of visitation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	Age.	Sex.	Color, (black, or mulatto.)	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	Place of Birth. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Attended School within the year.	Persons over 20 years of age who cannot read & write.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		James Murray	4	M				Delaware		1		
		Ann Do	2	F				Pennsylvania				
		Louisa Do	5/12	F				Do				
445	481	John Murray	43	M		Chemist		England				
		Mary Do	39	F				Ireland				
446	482	John Wickert	32	M		Chemist		Germany				
		Barbara Do	21	F				Do				
		George Do	4	M				Maryland				
		Wm H Do	2	M				Pennsylvania				
		Michael Brandbach	29	M		Chemist		Germany				
		Henry Rhode	23	M		Do		Do				
		Malvina Rhode	1	F				Do				
	483	George Mentz	22	M		Sugar Refiner		Do		1		
		Margaret Do	24	F				Do	1			
	484	Christian Benz	20	M		Chemist		Do	1			
		Catharine Do	22	F				Do	1			
		Thomas Hope	21	M		Sugar Refiner		Pennsylvania				
		Mary Do	46	F				Do				
		Elizabeth Tyler	24	F				Do				
		Mary F Do	13	F				Do				
448	485	Wm Scott	43	M		Bricklayer	1500	New York				
		Mary Do	40	F				England				
		Wm Do	15	M		Bricklayer		Pennsylvania				
		Thomas Do	11	M				Do		1		
		Benjamin Lyon	5	M		Bricklayer		Do				
		Robert Johnson	17	M		Do		Do				
449	487	Andrew Wenzel	36	M		Tiner	800	Germany				
		Magdalena Do	35	F				Do				
		Margaret Do	21	F				Pennsylvania				
		Wilhelmina Do	20	F				Do				
		Caroline Do	14	F				Do				
		Mary Do	4	F				Do				
450	488	Wm Wright	41	M		Dairyman		New Jersey				
		Elizabeth Do	32	F				Pennsylvania				
		Robert H Do	7	M				New Jersey		1		
		Joseph L Do	5	M				Do		1		
		Ann Mc Donald	26	F				Pennsylvania				
451	489	Daniel Keil	54	M		Coal Agent		Do				
		Elizabeth Do	50	F				Do				
		Jacob Do	21	M		Machinist		Do				
		Josephine Do	14	F				Do		1		
		Albert Do	9	M				Do		1		

23m
191

67

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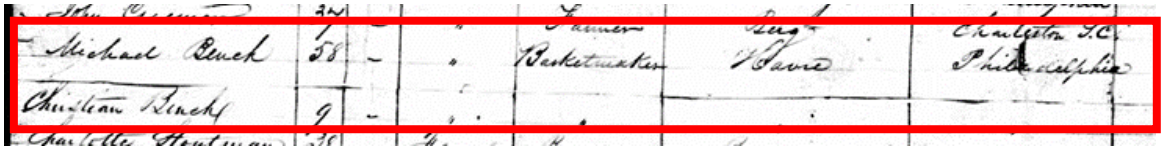
Finding Christian Benz

Immigration

With data from the 1850 and 1860 census indicating Christian was not born in Pennsylvania, but rather in Baden (Wurttemberg), a new round of searching was begun to identify when Christian arrived, and any connection to family in Europe.

A search of immigration records identified a record for Christian Benck/Bench arriving in New York aboard the ship 'Charles Carroll' from LeHarve, on Dec 28, 1839. His age is given as 9 years (1830). His destination is listed as Philadelphia.

Also included on the same passenger list is Michael Benck/Bench. Michael is listed as 58 years (1781) of age, and a basket-maker by trade. Michael and Christian's names are grouped together, and the passenger list is not in alphabetical order. This appears to indicate that they were traveling together. There is no indication of the familial linkage between these two individuals included in the passenger list. Given their respective ages (9 and 58), Michael could very well have been Christian's father, uncle, cousin, or potentially even his grandfather. This prompted much additional research.



There are immigration records for other men named Christian Benz in the time period prior to 1850, however, the ages do not come close to Christian age as indicated in other documents. Additionally, the arrival dates for those persons would not put them in Philadelphia in the correct time frame for the 1850 census, or the marriage between Christian and Catherine, or the birth of their son David.

Based on the information available at this time, the Christian identified in the passenger list appears to be the only likely candidate.

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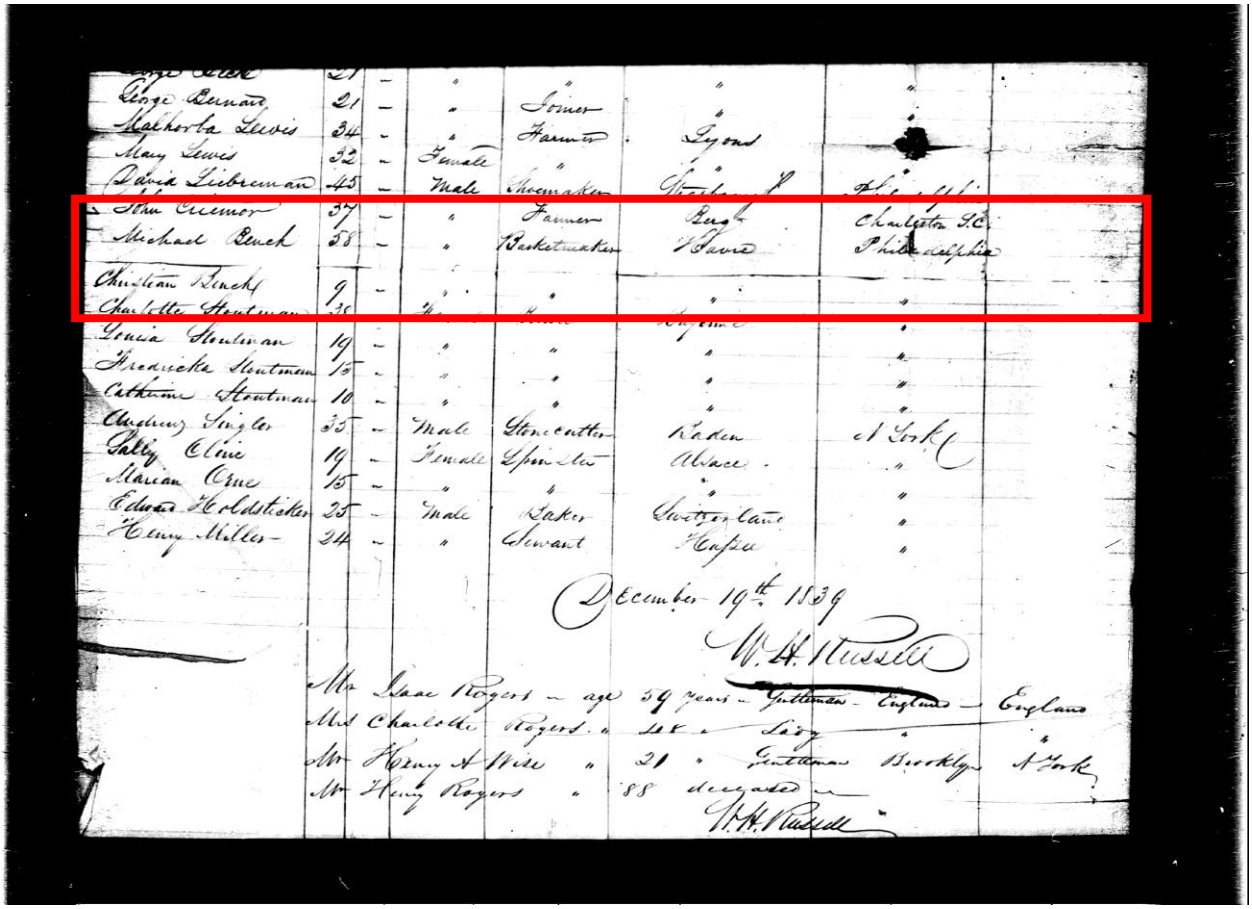
Finding Christian Benz



The 1850 census of Philadelphia (Spring Garden Ward 3, Precinct 2) identified a Michael Benc, 70 years of age (b1780), born in Germany; living with the family of John Benc (Johann Christian Benz), 42 years of age (1808), and his wife Elizabeth, 37 years of age (1813); both, also born in Germany. They are listed as 'family 473' in 'dwelling 438'. Christian and Catherine are listed as 'family 484' in 'dwelling 446'. Literally, on the same block.

Additional research of Michael (1780) indicates that he is likely John's (Johann Christian) father. John's mother appears to have been Mariana Dolbratin (1783-1822). Baptism records that seem to match John were located in Brotzingen, Pforzheim, Baden-Wurttemburg.

John Bener (Benz) and Elizabeth relocated their family prior to the 1860 Census, which found them living in the Reading, North-East Ward in Berks County, in the same ward as Christian and Catherine.

No data has been identified to date to determine exactly what type of familial link, if any, exists between Michael (1780) and Christian (1830).

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Finding Christian Benz

Origins in Europe

A record has been identified for a Christian Benz in Nottingen parish, Baden, Wurttemberg, with a birth date of September 24, 1830, and a taufe (baptism) date of September 25, 1830. This is the closest date to Christian's birth dated recorded in his death certificate (October 27, 1830). The parents are listed as Michael Benz and Catherina Duerr. To this point, this record seems to fit with the other available information regarding Christian's birth.

Records for other persons named Christian Benz, with birth or baptism dates in Wurttemberg have been reviewed, but at this time, this person seems the most likely candidate based on known age of Christian (1830).

A marriage record was located from Nottingen parish, Baden (Baden-Wurttemberg) for Michael Benz and Catharine Duerr, with a date of May 20, 1810. Catharine's age is given as 19 years (b1791). Her father is listed as Jacob Duerr, and her mother as Catharina Bachman. Michael Benz age at the time of this marriage is listed as 40 years (b1770).

From this entry, it appears likely that the Michael Benz (b1770) who was married to Catharina Durr, and was Christian's father, may not be the same Michael (b1781) who accompanied Christian to Philadelphia and was likely the father of John (Johann Christian) Benz.

Based on available records, at this time, it appears that Catharina Duerr was baptized in Nottingen parish on July 8, 1791, and her birth date is July 6, 1791. Her parents are listed as Jacob Duerr and Catharina Bachman (or Catharina Dorothea Bachman/Zachman).

Other children of Michael and Catharina were identified as: Jacob, born July 4, 1811, died July 24, 1873; Henri, born October 9, 1812, died September 11, 1848; Magdalene, baptized February 25, 1814, died Jul 23, 1814; George Adam, born May 13, 1815, died June 22, 1815; Magdalene (Madeleine), born June 4, 1816; George Adam, born July 23, 1819; Margaretha, born January 5, 1822; Caroline, born November 1, 1824; and Eva, born January 7, 1828. Documents observed indicate all the children were born and baptized in Nottingen.

Records indicate that Michael had been married previously to Anna Marie Zachman. They were married in Nottingen on January 6, 1799. They had six children, but it appears only three, Anna

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Finding Christian Benz

Marie (b1801), Michael (b1804) and Catharina (b1807) lived past early childhood. Anna Marie Zachman died on February 13, 1810.

Records indicate that the Benz family relocated to Saint-Marie-aux-Mines, in the Haut-Rhin area of Alsace, France sometime after Christian's birth (1830), but before 1835. Michael died in Saint-Marie-aux-Mines on November 5, 1835; and Catherine died there on October 10, 1848. Jacob emigrated to the United States, and lived in Pennsylvania before moving on to Indiana. The remainder of the family stayed in Saint-Marie-aux-Mines, or other areas in eastern France.

As of this point, it appears that Michael's parents were Sebastian Benz and Margarethe Jung. Sebastian appears to have been born on March 31, 1731 in Karlsruhe, Baden; and he died on September 23 1785 in Nottingen. Sebastian was the son of Jacob Benz and his wife Catharine. Margaretha Jung was born on August 25, 1742, in Karlsruhe, and died on November 7, 1817 in Nottingen. She was the daughter of Johann Philippe Jung and Margaretha Kuest.

More research is ongoing on verification of all of these findings.

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